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Page 2

Please amend claim 2 to read as follows:

2. (Three Times Amended) A method of diagnosing Crohn's disease in a subject, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a sample from a subject suspected of having inflammatory bowel disease;

(b) contacting the sample with an OmpC antigen, [or reactive fragment thereof,] under conditions suitable to form a complex of the OmpC antigen, [or reactive fragment thereof,] and IgA antibody to the OmpC antigen;

(c) contacting said complex with a labeled anti-IgA antibody to form a labeled complex; and

(d) detecting the presence or absence of said labeled complex, thereby determining the presence or absence of IgA anti-OmpC antibodies,

where the presence of said IgA anti-OmpC antibodies in said subject indicates that said subject has Crohn's disease.

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 13 are pending, with claims 8 to 13 having been withdrawn from examination. Claim 2 has been amended herein, and claims 12 and 13 have been canceled. Thus, subsequent to entry of the present amendment, claims 1 to 11 will be pending with claims 1 to 7 under examination.